

Supreme Court Salaries Stir Debate

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Pay Raise Bill Cleared in Congress, Johnson Signature by Friday Seen

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Staff Reporter

Congress completed final action late yesterday on the Federal pay raise bill and sent it to President Johnson. The President has promised to sign it into law later this week, probably Friday.

When the Senate cleared the bill by voice vote it ended nearly 18 months of Congressional consideration of the \$588 million bill that will raise salaries of 1.8 million persons in Government from messengers to the Vice President.

Both the House and the Senate had mild flurries over the \$4500 pay raises carried in the bill for Justices of the Supreme Court which are smaller than increases voted for other Federal judges, members of Congress, the Cabinet and other executives.

Rep. Charles S. Joelson (D-N.J.) accused the Congress of participating in "an act of vengeance" because it did

not agree with some of the Court's decisions. He said the action set a "dangerous precedent." Rep. James Roosevelt (D-Calif.) expressed the hope the Congress next year would vote the Justices appropriate increases in pay.

Sen. Gordon Allott (R-Colo.) whose amendment reduced \$7500 pay raises first approved by the House to \$2500, ex-

*Details of five-level plan
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pressed displeasure over the \$4500 compromise in the conference report. Senate conferees, he declared, should have held out for the \$2500 figure.

He said there was no justification for the large difference in salaries of Supreme Court Justices and members of Congress. Under the bill, salaries of members of Congress will be \$30,000. The Chief Justice will get \$40,000,

and Associate Justices, \$39,500.

Allott was supported by Sen. Frank Lausche (D-Ohio) who said he had held many jobs in the public service but that of judge was the simplest.

The pay bill, written by Rep. James H. Morrison (D-La.), will be effective at the beginning of the first pay period on or after last July 1. This means a July 1 effective date for many legislative employees, July 4 for postal employees and July 5 for many classifieds.

Checks reflecting the higher pay rates will be distributed to most employees during the last week in August. Many agencies plan to issue supplemental checks to cover the retroactive period.

Pay raises will average more than 5 per cent but they vary from 2.7 to more than 30 per cent. The 1.1 million classified and related employees will get an average of 4.3 per cent; the 590,000 postal workers an average of 5.6 per cent; legislative employees, 10 per cent, and executives about 30 per cent.